GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3059
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2005
HELP CENTRES FOR TAX PAYERS
Jagannath Dr. M.

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Help Centres for facilitating small and big tax payers/assessees to file their tax returns as envisaged in the Budget proposals of current financial year have been operationalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the locations where the units are functional or operationalized?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM)

(a) Help Centres for small income tax taxpayers have been set up from 1st July, 2005 and 30th September,2005. Government has also decided to set up Large Tax Payer Units (LTUs) to act as a single window service for the large tax payers paying Corporate/Income Tax, Excise Duties or Service Tax.

(b) `Help Centres` or Aayakar Sahayata Kendras have been set up as a facilitation measure for small taxpayers through a collaboration between the Income Tax Department and non-governmental organisations, trade/ industry associations, professional bodies on PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP model. The Private partnership is on a voluntary basis. These centres will assist small taxpayers to prepare and fill up returns of income/challans/PAN applications, to respond to queries of taxpayers regarding legal and procedural issues. In order to make the public aware of this facility, wide publicity has been given to this programme highlighting the purpose and details of the scheme of the Help Centres and the conveniences it offers to the small tax payers.
LTUs for large tax payers have not yet been operationalised. The LTUs are to be initially set up at Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai and are expected to become functional in 2006.

(c) At least one Help Centre has been set up under the jurisdiction of each Chief Commissioner of Income Tax who does not have exclusively corporate or salary jurisdiction. More than one hundred (100) Help Centres have been set up across the country.